

## STAR BOXERS FAIL TO IMPRESS LOCAL FANS—OTHER LIVE SPORTS NEWS AND COMMENT

PHILADELPHIA FIGHT FANS  
DISPLEASED WITH STALLING  
OF OVERPAID WIND-UP STARS

Star Bouts Which Look Good on Paper Fail to Please Spectators as Well as Preliminaries and Semiwind-Ups

PRIZE FIGHTING is against the law in the State of Pennsylvania, but boxing bouts are permitted. Perhaps that is why so many champions and near-champions of the pugilistic game pick on this city. The sporting public of this city supports boxing as well and more consistently than any other city in the country. The game has been cleaner here and has been well conducted, but it is about time that the club owners put boxers on the bill for their fighting ability, more than reputation.

It is rather strange that the wind-ups at the two big local clubs have been tame affairs recently, despite the expense and effort the owners have gone to to give Philadelphia's boxing fans a chance to see the stars in action. There must be some reason why the semiwind-up and preliminary boys invariably show excellent form and why stars, most of whom are overpaid, stall through six rounds.

A boxing fan who has patronized the game for years, and who has been closely identified with many of the leading figures in boxing in this city suggests that it is because there is such a vast difference in the money paid the boxers. He declares that wind-up boys get between \$500 and \$1000 at the two big clubs, while even the semiwind-ups are lucky to get \$75. Therefore, the boys who are not so well paid battle hard to reach the wind-up class.

## Wind-Up Boys Are Afraid of Their Reputations

Once in the wind-up class and drawing down the big money, the boys appear to be afraid that they might overwork or hurt their reputations by taking a chance and giving the fans a run for their money. The fact remains that champions and to-notch boxers, who are remarkably well paid, apparently make no attempt to fight, but are content to alibi themselves by placing the blame on their opponent when a poor bout results.

The club owners are in no way to blame for the poor showing of several wind-up boxers recently, as they spent large sums to stage bouts which looked very good on paper and which would have been good if the sole object of the boxers had not been to collect their money. "Money first" is the cry of the modern boxer, but it is time the owners insist that they fight a bout satisfactory to the fans or ask the Director of Public Safety to see that their purse is turned over to charity.

Boxing has advanced to such an extent that it is now a profession. The boxers who rise to the top and stay there for any length of time must possess brains. They must be fast with their hands and feet, and must also be crafty. Naturally they realize that their heyday does not last long, and they like to save themselves as much as possible. Whirlwind slam-bang fighters seldom remain at the head of their division long. They are wonderful drawing cards and earn more in a short period, but their downfall is more sudden, and this style of fighting is seldom indulged in by the brainy men of the ring.

It is not our desire to see murder when the topnotchers meet, but we do expect to see champions and near-champions at least try hard and give the fans a run for their money. If they do not they will kill the "goose that lays the golden eggs." The EVENING LEDGER is for clean, honest sport, and will do what it can to drive stallers and fakers out of the game.

## Here is the Most Unusual Play in Baseball

In a Western League game last season the following play came up, the like of which probably never before occurred on a ball field. Omaha had three men on bases with none out; three balls and two strikes had been called on the batter, when he met the ball solidly and drove it on a line straight at the shortstop. The baserunners on first and second were taking advantage of the wind-up of the pitcher and had long leads. It looked like a sure triple play, but Cy Forsythe, with the Giants in the spring of 1915, and a player never rated highly for his thinking ability, then pulled one of the headiest plays ever made on any field. He reached up into the air with his right hand and pulled the ball down, thus preventing the shortstop from catching it.

Naturally, a long argument immediately took place. St. Joseph insisted that Forsythe and the batter should be declared out for the former's interference, which prevented the shortstop from completing at least a double play. The umpire could find nothing in the rule book to warrant such a decision and called Forsythe out for interference. The play caused so much discussion that the question was taken up at the league meeting recently, but the directors could find nothing in the rule book which would permit the umpire to call more than one man out.

The only way a point of this sort can ever be covered is by wording a rule so that it would include deliberate interference or hit by batted ball, as it was termed by the umpire in Forsythe's case, but this would be putting too much up to the umpire. It is likely the rule will remain unchanged, as an opportunity for such a piece of inside work may never present itself in the future.

## Jim Thorpe Is a Modest Athlete

In a lecture to the football candidates for spring training at the University of Indiana, Jim Thorpe, the famous Indian athlete, said:

"A punter, like a baseball pitcher, to be a success, must have a lot of stuff on the ball and be able to control it. The English is given by kicking the ball on one side or the other, but the punter's judgment may be made certain only by watching the result of the kick with relation to the position that the ball struck his foot and the part of his foot receiving the force of the contact."

"It is possible for a punter to put 'juice' on the ball in such a way that six results entirely different may be accomplished after the ball hits the ground. The ball can be kicked so that when it falls it will roll to the right side or to the left, forward, backward, so that it will sail through the air and land virtually flat, and roll over forward."

Thorpe was a wonderful kicker and still a great football player, but if the man ever lived who could do with a ball what Jim claims, he certainly has never made his appearance in this city. Some men succeed in "placing" the ball a trifle better than others, or might be successful in kicking to the side of the field where the poorest open-field runner is receiving, but it is doubtful if there ever was a real place-punter in football.

## Gehman Questions Bowling Record

Charley Gehman, the veteran bowler, declares that the recent record of 36 consecutive strikes made by Rot Flagg, of Aberdeen, S. D., is not a world's mark. Gehman declares that his son Willie, once one of the greatest bowlers in the game, particularly in money matches, made 39 consecutive strikes in a sweepstake game on Gehman's old alleys on Fairmount avenue, near Broad, about 10 years ago. Willie finished up one game with 7 strikes, rolled two perfect scores of 300, and started out the next game with 8 more, giving him a grand total of 39. In his ninth box he left one pin standing and then struck three more times, giving him 279 for this game.

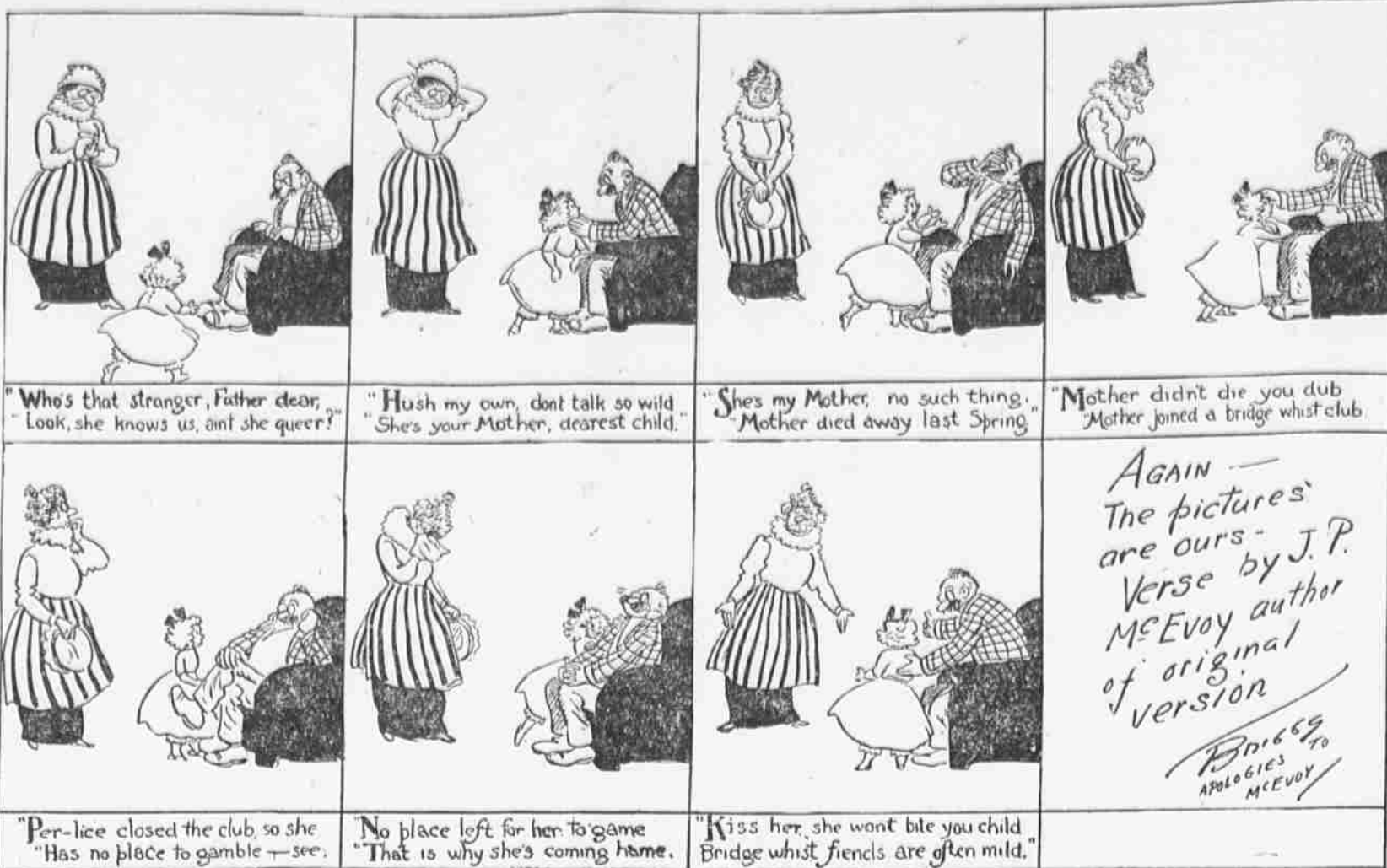
Veteran bowling fans recall that Gehman once rolled two 300 scores and a 279 in succession, but did not know that he had broken the consecutive strike record. On his home alleys Willie Gehman could beat any bowler in the world at that time, and often wagered on rolling more than 225 per game.

## Kessinger Qualifies as Veteran Pitcher

Speaking of veteran pitchers, a reader writes that "Rube" Kessinger, former major leaguer, must not be overlooked. This is entirely correct. Where Matty and Plank, with their 15 and 16 years of major league experience behind them, are being heralded as the veterans of the pitching world, Kessinger, who pitched grand ball in the Southern League, can point to more than 20 years of service in either the major leagues or in a high-class minor organization. It is hard to tell just how long Kessinger has been pitching and what his age is, as he is rather sensitive on this point, but the records show that he was with the old Baltimore Orioles in 1896 and 1898, and then with the Highlanders ten years later.

The appointment of Billy Roper as coach of Swarthmore College's football team for 1916 was pleasing to the student body and players of the 1915 team. They realized that Roper worked under a handicap and that he lived up to expectations in winning five of the eight games in the Garnet's schedule, including the big game of the year with Haverford. It was rumored that Tod Eberle, basketball coach, former gridiron star and assistant football tutor three years ago, would be selected, but Eberle did not apply for the position as he believed that Roper is the ideal man for the place.

## THE STRANGER (REVISED AND EXPURGATED)

W. E. NOW LEADS  
FOR INDUSTRIAL  
LEAGUE PENNANT

Electric Overpower Nat. Biscuit and Pass Budd. Am. Pulley Defeats H. J. C.

## GOSSIP OF THE CIRCUIT

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE STANDING	
Western Electric	10 1-2
P. & G. Indus.	9 1-2
Standard Roller	7 1-2
Electric Storage	6 1-2
American Pulley	5 1-2
Hale & Kilburn	4 1-2
National Biscuit	3 1-2

Western Electric, by defeating National Biscuit, last night, forged ahead in the race for the Industrial League pennant. As a result of its 23 to 23 victory, the Electric is in possession of first place, as E. G. Budd, with whom the Electric tied, did not play.

The other game terminated in a 23 to 13 triumph for American Pulley over Hale & Kilburn, causing the tie for seventh place to remain unbroken. Hale & Kilburn and National Biscuit are still on a par with two wins and ten losses.

It is interesting to note that in defeating the Nabisco each player on the Western Electric contributed three goals from the field. For the vanquished Hale & Kilburn and National Biscuit also registered a trio of double-deckers.

King started the game in a sensational manner by scoring 7 points for Nabisco before his opponents had made a single tally. When the Electric began scoring, however, they had the game all their own way.

Bopple, the Hale & Kilburn midjet, in spite of his scant avoirdupois, never misses a chance to get into a rough scrimmage. His speed and dribbling ability, coupled with his accurate shooting, makes him one of the most spectacular players in the league. In last week's game with Nabisco Bopple showed a tendency to indulge in football tactics by charging Referee Eberle in the knees, causing the latter to display signs of distress.

The addition of Harry King to the National Biscuit five was largely the cause of the Nabisco showing a revival of form in the recent contest with Hale & Kilburn. King is an alert player, and is in the game at all times. He is a brother of the former Penn State football player, and was a member of the La Salle College eleven this past fall.

In spite of standing more than six feet in height and carrying lots of weight, O'Reilly is a fast, active player. Jumping centre for National Biscuit he is one of the leading pivot men in the league.

The spectators at the Industrial League games are to be commended for their sportsmanship and conduct. The first evidence of questionable tactics or remarks has yet to be noticed. The presence of many ladies for the various industrial establishments adds an air of dignity that does not go unnoticed.

## BILL ROPER RE-ENGAGED

Again Will Coach Football Team at Swarthmore

SWARTHMORE, Pa., Feb. 2.—At a meeting of the Swarthmore Athletic Committee it was definitely announced that William R. (Bill) Roper again would assume the duty of coach of the football team for the 1916 season. Roper was appointed coach last year and succeeded Fred Gier, who handled the 1915 and 1916 teams. Roper succeeded in building up a fairly good machine from the material at hand and won five out of an eight-game schedule, including the Haverford game.

After coming to Swarthmore, Roper had been a successful coach at the University of Missouri for two years and at Princeton for five seasons. He is well liked at the little Quaker college, and as he has only lost three games in last year's team, he was secured for a good team for next season.

## Smith, of Pittsburgh, Sold

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 2.—Outsider Paul Smith was sold to the Pittsburgh Pirates of the International League, by the Pittsburgh National League Club, last night. Smith was secured from that club by a draft last fall.

## NEWS OF LOCAL BOWLING ALLEYS

In the Drug League tournament on Casino Alley last night the National team won two games out of three from the H. K. Wampole team, mostly quiet, with whom they were tied for the lead. Nationals were in great form, totaling 2740 points for their three matches, against 2222 for their opponents. Nationals won the first game by a margin of 24 pins, Haddock knocking down 240, Tracy 210 and Shields 207. The Nationals improved in their second game scattering 2740, Tracy 210, Wampole 272. Tracy with 214, Shields with 231, and Haddock with 209, were the biggest scorers for the winners. In the final game Nationals hung up a 945 total to Wampole's 811. Haddock being high individual, with a 233 score, the best of the series.

Heinold's 233 score for Nationals set a new Drug League mark for the season, which the other experts may find hard to beat.

Ekman Manufacturing Company squad won two games from Philadelphia Wholesale drug company representatives, dropping the third game, 86 to 84. Long totaled 224 and Shields 212 in the final game from the Wholesale.

Federals outrolled Smith, Kline & French bowlers in the Drug League series. Fed's 102 for Federals in the first game was the highest individual effort of this series.

Mulford Company bowlers, like the other four winning teams in the Drug League, won two games from their rivals, the S. S. White Company. The first game resulted in a tie score of 821, and in the roll-off the White team won Reichel's 201 in the opening game was the best individual score of this match.

Doc J. P. Shields regained his form and cracked out scores of 267 and 223 and then won with 149.

Germany, of the Enervating Squad, is the best individual bowler of the Curtis League, having a 181 average for 12 games.

Sixteen of the 28 bowlers enrolled with the Curtis League squads roll from the scratch.

Tracy, with a 1033 score in his third game against Pennsylvania Railroad, is the best five-man combination to roll a score better than the 1000 mark this season. To get this fine score the team, individually, rolled as follows: Fritz, 257; Haddockman, 182; "Hutch", 220; McDonald, 211; and MacLachlan, 220.

Tom Jones registered a 618 score for Pennsylvania Railroad team, his best effort being 257.

Pick, for Liberty Bell, cracked out 242 in his initial contest against Keystone. Liberty Bell had little trouble, winning all three games from Keystone. They lead the Philadelphia League.

J. Moore, of the T. R. Smith team, knocked down 246 pins in his third game last night.

Price of Pennsylvania Railroad was in splendid form, as his three game scores of 215, 215 and 204 demonstrated.

The Standard team, of the Insurance League, has an even 100 pins game allowance on People's National quarter, and as a result won two games, the first by a pin.

The Accounting team are champions of the first half of the Philadelphia Electric League season.

In 42 games of the Curtis League first round the Enervating team knocked down a total of 3182 pins, which is only 57 pins more than the best Enervating team scattered across the Terminal Alleys in the same number of games.

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## HUTCHINSON TO PLAY PEARSON FOR TITLE

Meet in Final Round for Squash Racquet Laurels

Stanley W. Pearson, of Germantown, the present titleholder, and D. L. Hutchinson, 30, Racquet Club, qualified for the final round of the squash racquets championship of Pennsylvania at the Racquet Club, yesterday, by defeating respectively, W. H. T. Huhn, Racquet Club, and Morton L. Newhall, Germantown. Pearson defeated Huhn by three games to none, 15-6, 15-2, 15-11, and Hutchinson defeated Newhall by three games to one, 15-7, 15-3, 2-15, 15-15.

The match between Pearson and Huhn was played first, and contrary to expectations Huhn proved no match for the champion. Without detracting in the least from Pearson's victory it can be said that Huhn was completely off form in the first two games, and when he did strike something like his true form in the third game his effort came too late.

At the request of the committee, Charles G. Treat, delegate from the Army Polo Association, with headquarters in Washington, sent on a list of players whose enhanced skill made a fine of handicap over last season's figures seem advisable. There are 15 of them. Lieutenant Stange's rating is raised from 1 to 3 again. Six new players have been added to the Army Polo Club, of Philadelphia, including Earl Hopson, the recent manager of the Continental Polo Club, which resigned from the association. His rating has been advanced from 4 to 6, while A. M. Collins goes from 3 to 4. Among the other increased handicaps are Rodman Wainwright, Jr., 2; R. S. Strawbridge, Jr., 2; and R. Penn Smith, 2.

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